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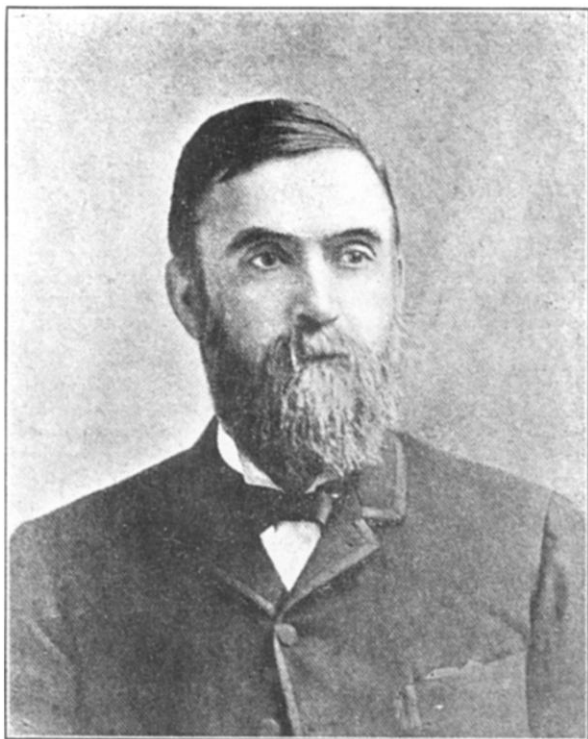
OSCAR C. FOX

Major Oscar C. Fox was born in Pitcher, N. Y., of English and Scotch ancestry, August 23, 1830, his parents being Daniel Fox and Harriet Amanda, born Chapman. His grandfather, Hubbard Fox, served in the First Connecticut line during the Revolutionary War, and the boy Oscar began working in his father's flour and saw mills. He was educated in Pitcher Springs Academy, Chenango County, and McGrawville or Central College, Cortland County.

Like many prominent and successful men he taught school in early life, and from 1856 to 1860 was principal of Nelson Academy in Ohio. In 1861 he raised a company of soldiers in his native county of Chenango and entered the 76th New York Vols. with the rank of Captain. They were immediately sent to the front and after taking part in several battles, on August 28, 1862, he was dangerously wounded at the battle of Gainesville, Va., receiving a shot through the lungs, the ball remaining in his body during the rest of his life. While slowly recovering he was discharged from active service on account of disability December 22, 1862, with the rank of brevet Major. Three years after he received this wound, and at the exact hour of Lincoln's assassination, in a paroxysm of coughing, he threw out a quantity of cotton the bullet had carried into his body from the lining of his vest, and from that time on his health gradually and steadily returned.

From 1864 to 1870 Mr. Fox served as a clerk in the office of the Commissary General of Subsistence at Washington, a position he resigned to enter the Patent Office, in which he obtained as the result of competitive examination, in July, 1873, the position of Principal Examiner. He was placed in charge of one division, which includes agricultural machinery and tools chiefly, and occupied this position until his death, which took place June 6, 1902.

Major Fox had a strong natural inclination for scientific work, and while living at Linden, in the suburbs of Washington, constructed a small reflecting telescope, polishing the mirror himself. He planned a much larger one, and partially made it, but change of location and failing health prevented its completion. In May, 1876,



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he conceived the idea of introducing compressed air into the hermetically sealed tube of a telescope to prevent flexure of the objective by gravity. He also contrived a novel uniform motion mechanism for rotary fluid parabolic reflectors of any possible aperture for zenith observations. Besides these inventions he made several improvements in other lines of mechanics, his mind being constantly active and interested in scientific work. He was a member of the G. A. R., of the Union Veteran Legion, of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, of the Washington Microscopical Society and of the American Microscopical Society, having joined the latter in 1892.

In person he was tall and large-framed, with a gentle manner that seemed almost a contrast to a somewhat imposing personality. He was married on September 11, 1866, to Abbie Galt, of Delaware County, N. Y., who, with one daughter, survives him.

WM. H. SEAMAN